

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /101 W
-----109060 121630Z /40

P R 121515Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1711

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ANGLICAN CHURCH CRITICIZE THE WESTERN FIVE

1. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS JULY 12, REPORTED EXCERPTS
FROM A STATEMENT DRAWN UP BY NAMIBIAN DELEGATES OF THE
ANGLICAN CHURCH AT A MEETING IN LESOTHO LAST WEEK AND
RELEASED BY BISHOP KALUUMA ON JULY 11. THE STATEMENT NOTED
THE "SYSTEMATIC INCREASE OF (SAG) TROOPS AND MASSIVE BUILD-
UP OF WEAPONS IN OUR COUNTRY" AND SAID THAT THE WESTERN
PROPOSALS COULD NO LONGER BE "CONSIDERED AS GIVING SUFFICIENT
SAFEGUARDS TO THE SUFFERING NAMIBIAN PEOPLE IN THE PERIOD
BEFORE INDEPENDENCE." THE STATEMENT ALSO CHARGED THAT THE
WESTERN POWERS WERE "BLATANTLY ATTEMPTING TO COERCE THOSE
FORCES WHICH ARE WORKING FOR THE TRUE LIBERATION OF
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OUR COUNTRY" AND ASSERTED THAT WESTERN ACTIONS "HAVE
DONE LITTLE TO ACHIEVE BASIC CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICA'S
POLICIES AND THE STRUCTURES OF NAMIBIAN SOCIETY."

2. THE ANGLICAN VICAR GENERAL IN NAMIBIA, EDWARD MORROW,
TOLD EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE STATEMENT
REFLECTED THE BITTERNESS OF CHURCH MEMBERS OVER THE

MAY 4 SOUTH AFRICAN RAID ON CASSINGA IN WHICH MANY NAMIBIANS "LOST THEIR CHILDREN". IT WAS ALSO A REACTION, HE SAID, TO THE DETENTIONS BY THE AG UNDER PROCLAMATION 26. MORROW ASSERTED THAT THESE ACTIONS BY THE SAG HAD UNDERMINED THE TRUST AND GOOD FAITH THAT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE PLAN WORK. CONSEQUENTLY, THE FEELING OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCHMEN, HE SAID, WAS THAT THE PLAN CAN NO LONGER WORK WITHOUT NEW GUARANTEES AND SAFEGUARDS.

3. MORROW IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY HIS VIEW BUT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE 20 CLERGYMEN WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING IN LESOTHO. THE ASSUMPTION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCHMEN, HE SAID, WAS THAT THE PLAN WOULD NO LONGER BE ACCEPTABLE TO SWAPO AND THE CHURCH WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT SWAPO IN THIS DECISION. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT WE STILL HAD A GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING SWAPO'S AGREEMENT AND THAT THE STATEMENT BY THE ANGLICAN CHURCHMEN WAS UNFORTUNATE IN THAT IT WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE SWAPO IN THIS DIRECTION. MORROW SAID THAT THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, OF COURSE, HOPED THAT SWAPO WOULD AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL AND IF SO, THE CHURCH WOULD FULLY SUPPORT ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

4. THE LUTHERAN AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES WITH THE ANGLICAN STATEMENT. LUTHERAN BISHOP DE VRIES, HOWEVER, RECENTLY WROTE AN OPEN LETTER STRONGLY CRITICIZING THE ACTIONS OF THE AG (PRETORIA 3914).
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Message Attributes

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